

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PHNOM 11904 051257Z

43

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 051110Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7581

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 11904

EXDIS/NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CB

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT LON NOL REPORTEDLY VETOES LON NON'S
DESIRE TO RETURN TO PHNOM PENH AT THIS TIME

REF: PARIS 20840

1. UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INFORMATION THONG LIM HUONG CALLED EMBASSY OFFICER TO HIS OFFICE YESTERDAY AND GAVE HIM THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT RECENT EXPRESSION OF DESIRE ON THE PART OF BG LON NON TO RETURN TO PHNOM PENH. THONG LIM HUONG IS A LONG-TIME CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF LON NON AND, AS THE DEPARTMENT KNOWS, HAS BEEN USED IN PAST AS A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE TWO BROTHERS.

2. PRESIDENT LON NOL TOLD THONG LIM HUONG SEVERAL DAYS AGO THAT THIS IS NOT REPEAT NOT THE TIME FOR BF LON NON TO RETURN TO PHNOM PENH. IT IS THE MARSHAL'S DESIRE, ACCORDING TO THONG LIM HUONG, THAT EITHER LON NON REMAIN WHERE HE IS IN PARIS OR JOIN THE GKR UN DELEGATION IN NEW YORK. FOLLOWING THE DISCUSSION, THONG LIM HUONG COMMUNICATED THE MARSHAL'S POSITION IN A PERSONAL LETTER TO LON NON WHICH WAS CARRIED BY A LOWER-LEVEL MINISTRY OF INFORMATION OFFICIAL WHO FLEW TO PARIS ON ANOTHER OFFICIAL MISSION ON SEPTEMBER 3.

3. THE DISCUSSION WITH THE MARSHAL TOOK PLACE FOLLOWING
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RECEIPT BY THONG LIM HUONG ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 31

OF THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF PERSONAL LETTERS IN WHICH LON NON HAS EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO RETURN TO PHNOM PENH AND REQUESTED THONG LIM HUONG'S SOUNDINGS AND ADVICE. ACCORDING TO THONG LIM HUONG, IN THIS LATEST LETTER LON NON INDICATED HE WOULD NOT PLAN TO RETURN UNTIL AFTER THE U.S. CONGRESS HAD PASSED THE FY 1975 U.S. APPROPRIATION BILL FOR CAMBODIA (SEE REFTEL). IN EARLIER LETTERS, LON NON INDICATED THAT IF AND WHEN HE DID RETURN, HE WOULD DEVOTE AT LEAST THREE MONTHS TO ASSESSING THE SITUATION QUIETLY WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING WHAT IF ANY ROLE HE COULD USEFULLY TAKE UP.

4. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT THONG LIM HUONG HAS GIVEN INFORMATION TO THE EMBASSY BEFORE ABOUT LON NON'S WOULD-BE TRAVEL PLANS, ON THIS OCCASION, AS IN THE PAST, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE AWKWARDNESS AND HAZARDS OF HIS POSITION AS A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE TWO BROTHERS ON THIS SENSITIVE MATTER.
KEELEY

SECRET

NNN

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